

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). A steel material having a good resistance to corrosion, characterised in that it consists of an alloy containing in % by weight:

max 0.12 C

0.5-1.5 N

12-18 Cr

max 0.5 Mn

max 0.5 Ni

1-5 (Mo + W/2)

max 1.5 (V + Nb/2 + Ti)

0.1-0.5 Si

from traces and up to max 2.0 Co

from traces and up to max 0.1 S

balance iron and essentially only impurities at normal contents.

2 (original). A steel material according to claim 1, characterised in that after hardening and tempering, it has a hardness of 58-65 HRC and a microstructure containing 3-6 % by volume of the two hard phases M(N,C) and Cr₂N in a matrix that essentially is constituted by tempered nitrogen martensite, which nitrogen martensite comprises 5-20 % residual austenite.

3 (currently amended). A steel material according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterised in that it contains max 0.11 C, preferably 0.02-0.10 C.

4 (currently amended). A steel material according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~claim 1, characterised in that it contains 0.7-1.2, preferably 0.8-1.0 N.

5 (currently amended). A steel material according to ~~any one of claims 1-4~~claim 1, characterised in that it contains 12.5-17, preferably 13-16 Cr.

6 (currently amended). A steel material according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~claim 1, characterised in that it contains max 0.4, preferably max 0.3 Mn.

7 (currently amended). A steel material according to any one of claims 1-6, characterised in that it contains max 0.4, preferably max 0.3 Ni.

8 (currently amended). A steel material according to ~~any one of claims 1-7~~claim 1, characterised in that it contains 2-4, preferably 2.5-3.5 (Mo + W/2).

9 (currently amended). A steel material according to any one of claims 1-8, characterised in that it contains 0.05-0.3, preferably 0.1 V.

10 (currently amended). A steel material according to ~~any one of claims 1-9~~claim 1, characterised in that it contains 0.3-0.7, preferably 0.5 Nb.

11 (currently amended). A steel material according to ~~any one of claims 2-4~~claim 2, characterised in that it has been hardened by austenitizing at 1000-1200 °C, preferably at 1050-1150 °C and most preferred at 1100-1150 °C, deep cooled at -80 - -200 °C, and thereafter tempered at a temperature of 400-560 °C, preferably at 430-500°C and most preferred at 460-500 °C.

12 (original). A steel material according to claim 11, characterised in that it has a hardness of 60-64 HRC and most preferred about 62-63 HRC.

13 (currently amended). A steel material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that M in the hard phase M(N,C) essentially contains chromium, niobium, vanadium and molybdenum according to the following composition:

0.66 Cr, 0.27 Nb, 0.07 V + Mo, where the content of V is predominant, and where (N,C) essentially contains nitrogen but also a certain amount of carbon according to the following composition:

0.98 N, 0.02 C.

14 (currently amended). A steel material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that Cr in the hard phase Cr₂N essentially contains chromium, molybdenum, iron and vanadium, according to the following composition:

0.79 Cr, 0.07 Mo, 0.09 Fe and 0.05 V, and where (N,C) essentially contains nitrogen but also a certain amount of carbon according to the following composition:

0.98 N, 0.02 C.

15 (currently amended). A steel material according to claim 1 ~~or any one of~~
~~claims 3-10~~, characterised in that it is soft annealed and that in the soft annealed
condition it has a hardness of 220-250 HB (Brinell hardness), preferably 230-240 HB.

16 (currently amended). A steel material according to ~~any one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, characterised in that it is a powder metallurgically manufactured
material.

17 (original). Use of a steel material according to claim 15, for manufacturing of
knives and tools.

18 (original). Use of a steel material according to claim 15, for manufacturing of
machine knives and manual knives for food industry.

19 (original). Use of a steel material according to claim 15, for manufacturing of
plastic moulding tools and injection screws for plastics.

20 (original). Use of a steel material according to claim 15, for manufacturing of
tools for cutting paper based laminated products for food and beverages.

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21 (original). Use of a steel material according to claim 15, for manufacturing of ball bearings.